



SWEETHEARTS

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

Sweethearts®

VOL. 2
No 23



10¢



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

Build a Fine Business... Full or Spare Time!

I'll Put a "Shoe Store Business" in Your Pocket!

SHOE BUSINESS



You Don't Invest a Cent!

I Furnish Everything Free!

Want to have lots of money in your pocket—always? Then rush the coupon below and start toward your own business. In many ways it's better than a retail store of your own! I plan to give it to you absolutely **FREE**. You don't invest a penny now or ever! Be in this highly profitable business **QUICK**.

HERE'S WHY IT'S BETTER!

As the direct factory man handling the quick-selling line of this 47-year old, million-dollar company you have a limitless market, because everybody wears shoes. Start by selling to relatives, friends, neighbors. That will prove the fine quality leathers—superb craftsmanship—money-saving value—and unequalled comfort-fit! Then branch out on a big scale.

It's easy to fit folks in the exact style they want—no need to substitute—you draw on our huge factory stock of over 175,000 pairs plus huge daily factory production.

Sales build up from friend to friend quickly, like a snowball. Recommendations, repeat orders and new customers build you a big income in a surprisingly short time. No wonder some of our top Shoe Counselors make from \$5 to \$10 every hour they spend taking orders!

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

People demand nationally advertised Mason Shoes because of their exclusive comfort features, up-to-the-minute styling. Foamy-soft exclusive Velvet-Eez.

Air Cushion innersole makes walking a real pleasure—like "walking on air!" Ten-second demonstration lets customer actually feel air cushion, brings quick sales!

These splendid shoes bear famous Good Housekeeping Guarantee Seal.

Velvet-eez
TRADE MARK



MASON SHOE MFG. CO.
Dept. MA215, Chippewa Falls, Wisc.

BIG, STEADY PROFITS FOR YOU — NO OVERHEAD!

That's right! You have all the advantages of a profitable shoe store business *without* the expenses of rent, light, heat, etc. You are independent and invest nothing but your time. Your generous profit is **ALL YOURS**! No wonder Mason men are making more money than ever before. Even if you start in spare time, you will soon want to devote full time to this steady, repeat-order big-income business!

No Experience Needed... Make Money First Hour!

You need no experience to make money right away. Some men have made up to 20 sales their first day. You feature 151 styles of smart dress shoes, casual sport shoes, and practical work and service shoes for men and women, boots and fine leather jackets, too.

Sell to service station and garage men, waiters, factory workers, barbers, waitresses, nurses, housewives—everybody! Such features as Rugged Horsehide Shoes, Neoprene Oil-Resistant Soles, Gro-Cork Slip-Resistant Soles, Steel Safety Toe shoes make Mason Shoes easy to sell.

SEND NOW!

I have a powerful Selling Outfit I'm going to send you absolutely **FREE** as soon as I receive your coupon. This outfit includes actual 10-second demonstrator—famous Automatic Selling Plan, and features exclusive Velvet-Eez Air-Cushion shoes, fine leather jackets—other fast-selling specialties. To take advantage of this opportunity of your life, rush me the coupon below **NOW**! You'll be glad you did!



SEND FOR FREE OUTFIT

Mr. Ned Mason, Sales Manager
Mason Shoe Mfg. Co., Dept. MA-215
Chippewa Falls, Wisc.

Please put a "Shoe Store Business" in my pocket by rushing **FREE** and postpaid your Powerful Selling Outfit—so I can start making Big Money my very first hour!

Name

Age

Address

Town..... State.....

SWEETHEARTS

Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Volume 2, Number 23 May, 1954
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Cover Portrait—John Derek and Joan Evans in a scene from Republic's new Trucolor production, "The Fortune Hunter".

SWEETHEARTS

The following outstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words: A CHARLTON PUBLICATION
 ATOMIC MOUNE • COWBOY WESTERN HEROES • CRIME AND JUSTICE • FINNY ANIMALS
 SH! die this crazy comic • HAUNTED • HOT ROBIN AND RACING CARS • ZOO FUNNIES
 LASH LAHUE WESTERN • ROCKY LANE WESTERN • RACKET SQUAD • SIX-GUN HEROES
 ROMANTIC STORY • MURDER-FICTION SPARK ADVENTURES • STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES
 SWEETHEARTS • THE BITTER WESTERN • TRUE LIFE SECRETS • TV TRENDS • THE THING

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.

I WAS OFFERED SECURITY AND DEVOTION, BUT IT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED. WHAT I HUNGRED FOR WAS...

HIGH VOLTAGE LOVE



I HAD KNOWN JOSH FARROW EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS. HE WAS AS FAMILIAR AS AN OLD HAT... AND JUST ABOUT AS EXCITING. AND HE TOOK A LOT FOR GRANTED...

PICK YOU UP SOON AS THE LAST SHOW BREAKS, VICKI?

SORRY, JOSH... MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME. I'VE GOT A SPLITTING HEAD-ACHE.

SPECTACLE
 3-D
 YOU-THEATRE
 SHOWING



YOU'RE ACTING KIND OF DUMB, SISTER! THE GUY WORSHIPS YOU...AND THAT HEADACHE CAME ON AWFUL SUDDENLY, DIDN'T IT?

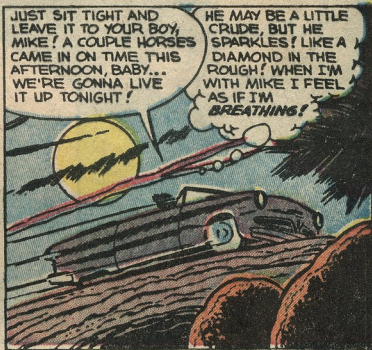
I'M JUST NOT READY TO STOP LIVING, SEE? MY IDEA IS TO GET MARRIED, BUY A COTTAGE OUT IN THE STICKS, AND MAKE LIKE WE'RE A HUNDRED YEARS OLD!



SWEETHEARTS

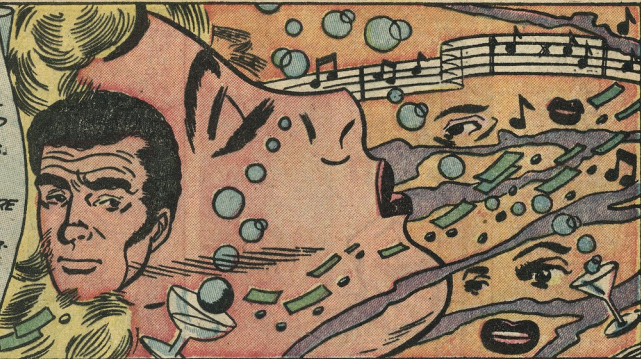
LITTLE VICKI'S STILL GOT BLOOD IN HER VEINS. I WANT SOME EXCITEMENT... A COUPLE OF THRILLS OUT OF LIFE! AND I KNOW WHERE I CAN GET THEM! JUST DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

MADGE MEANT WELL, I SUPPOSE.. BUT I WAS DOING NIKELY WITHOUT HER CONSTANT MEDDLING. EACH NIGHT IT BECAME MORE DIFFICULT TO SHAKE HER OFF..



SWEETHEARTS

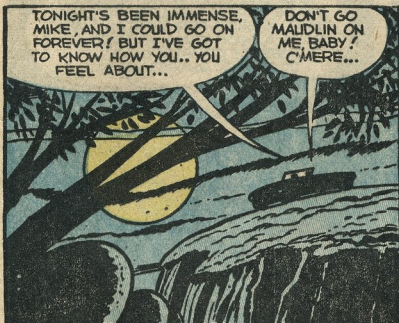
THE HOURS SPIN OUT LIKE A GOSSAMER DREAM, FILLED WITH THE CLINK OF GLASSES AND THE BLARE OF CORNETS. THIS WAS WHAT I WANTED, I WAS SURE ... BUT A SLIVER OF DOUBT STABBED AT MY BRAIN. HOW LONG COULD THIS HIGH-VOLTAGE LOVE GO ON?



WE LEFT THE CLUB SAETY, AND...

TONIGHT'S BEEN IMMENSE, MIKE, AND I COULD GO ON FOREVER! BUT I'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW YOU.. YOU FEEL ABOUT...

DON'T GO MAULDIN ON ME BABY! C'MERE...



MIKE'S LIPS SAVAGELY DROWNED OUT THE QUESTIONS I WANTED TO ASK. IT HAD ALL BEEN A JOYOUS GAME 'TIL NOW... SUDDENLY I KNEW I'D BEEN TOYING WITH FIRE!



BET YOU NEVER BEEN KISSED LIKE *THAT*, BABY! YOU BEEN HOLDING ME OFF LONG ENOUGH ... I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE MILK-SOP HICKS! HEY.. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D LIKE TO CALL A COP!

A C-COP? I.. I'M NOT READY FOR *THAT* YET, MIKE!



BUT I THINK IT'S TIME WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE... AND THE PAST! LIKE WHERE YOU WORK... AND WHERE ALL THIS IS GOING TO LEAD...

THAT'S ALL MY FAMOUS ANIMAL! MAGNETISM MAKES YOU THINK OFF BANNN!



SWEETHEARTS

HAT'S THE WAY IT WENT WITH MIKE AND ME... A BARREL OF FUN AND SOME MIGHTY UNEASY MOMENTS. AND WHEN JOSH STOPPED BOTHERING ME ABOUT SETTING A WEDDING DATE, I HARDLY NOTICED. THEN...



YOU GOT MORE QUESTIONS THAN A DOG HAS FLEAS! C'MERE..OUTTA THE LIGHT!



W-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH IT, MIKEY



I-I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!

BLOW THE EXIT



IT'S JOSH! PROBABLY C-COMING TO SEE WHY I'VE BEEN SO EVASIVE LATELY...



GO AHEAD AND SING, BABY...IT WON'T DO YOU NO GOOD!

BLAM!

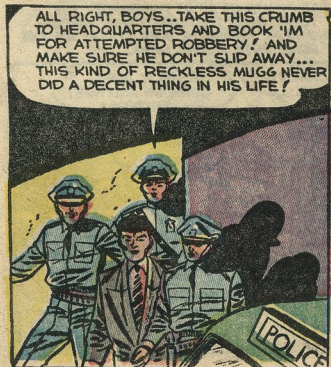
SWEETHEARTS



IN HORROR I SAW JOSH SAG TO THE GROUND, A RED STAIN WIDENING ON HIS COAT. HYSTERICALLY I THREW MYSELF FORWARD, TO SHIELD HIM. THEN, SUDDENLY...



MY HEART FELT AS IF IT WOULD BURST WITH HAPPINESS. THEN I HEARD THE FATEFUL QUESTION, AND I KNEW MIKE'S ANSWER WOULD DOOM ME FOREVER!



It didn't mean a thing

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, JANICE? WHY SHOULD YOU GET SO HET UP IF SHE TRAPS HIM INTO MARRIAGE? I'M THE GUY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN LOVE WITH!

LET ME GO... SOB... I WON'T--LET HIM--DO IT! I WON'T--!

SHE CAME BACK HOME TO GET MARRIED, THINKING SHE HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THE BOY NEXT DOOR! AND WHEN SHE SAW HIM, SHE TRIED TO TELL HER HEART--IT DIDN'T MEAN A THING!

FIVE YEARS HAD DROPPED OFF THE CALENDAR SINCE I HAD BEEN HOME, AND NOW I WAS COMING HOME TO GET MARRIED! THE FOLKS HAD WANTED IT THAT WAY--AND BESIDES, IT WAS TIME THEY MET THEIR FUTURE SON-IN-LAW!

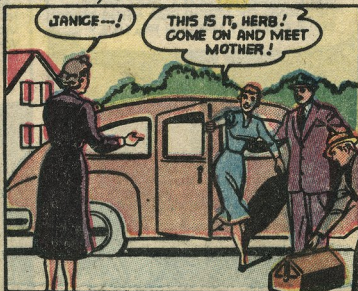
THERE'S THE OLD WATER TOWER! WE'LL BE THERE IN MINUTES! GOLLY, DEAR--I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE THIS EXCITED!

I SURE HOPE THEY LIKE ME! YOU KNOW, I'D FEEL BETTER IF WE WERE ALREADY MARRIED!

DAD PICKED US UP AT THE DEPOT! THE TOWN HADN'T CHANGED VERY MUCH--AND I KEPT TALKING A BLUE STREAK ALL THE WAY HOME, UNTIL I SAW MOM!

JANICE--!

THIS IS IT, HERB! COME ON AND MEET MOTHER!



SWEETHEARTS

THERE WAS AN EXCITED HUBBUB IN THE HOUSE--EVERYBODY TALKING AT ONCE AS I LISTENED AVIDLY TO ALL THE GOSSIP! THEN I GLANCED OUT OF THE WINDOW AND...

THERE'S JOHNNY'S PLACE! AND HOW IS GOOD OLD JOHNNY?

JUST FINE, DEAR! I DON'T THINK JOHNNY WILL EVER CHANGE!



I'LL BET HE'S MARRIED AND HAS ABOUT FOUR KIDS!

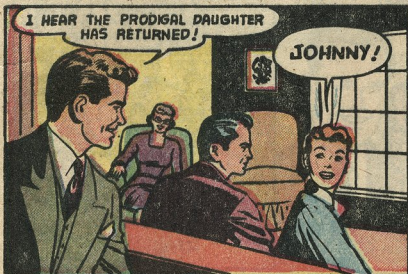
NÖPE! HE STILL LIVES THERE--STILL SELLING REAL ESTATE--AND STILL A BACHELOR!



THE TALK ABOUT JOHNNY BROUGHT WITH IT A FLOOD OF MEMORIES! WE HAD BEEN CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS! HE HAD TAKEN ME TO MY FIRST PROM! I HAD WORN HIS FRATERNITY PIN! THEN...

I HEAR THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER HAS RETURNED!

JOHNNY!



OF COURSE IT WAS JUST A BIG BROTHERLY KISS THAT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING--BUT HERB WAS TAKEN ABACK BECAUSE JOHNNY HAD LET HIS ENTHUSIASM RUN AWAY WITH HIM!



YOU'RE PRETTIER THAN EVER, BABY!

I'LL BET YOU SAY THAT TO ALL THE GIRLS! COME HERE--I WANT YOU TO MEET MY FIANCE!



COME ON OVER HERE AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF!

OH--YOU KNOW WE SMALL TOWN BOYS NEVER DO ANYTHING EXCITING! I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU! WHO LISTENED TO YOUR PROBLEMS ALL THESE YEARS?



OF COURSE YOU'LL STAY FOR DINNER, WON'T YOU, JOHNNY?

I'M YOUR BOY!

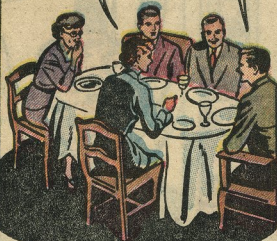


SWEETHEARTS

IT GAVE ME THAT NICE WARM FEELING TO HAVE THE FAMILY, HERB AND JOHNNY SURROUNDING ME AT THE DINNER TABLE! BUT HERB WAS STRANGELY SILENT IN CONTRAST TO MY OWN ANIMATED SPIRITS!

HOW COME YOU'RE NOT MARRIED YET, JOHNNY?

OH--JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS!



BUT I'M SEEING LILA KENTON TOMORROW! HOW ABOUT YOU AND HERB COMING ALONG?

LILA KENTON--? YOU MEAN YOU AND SHE--? WHY SURE--IT'LL BE A LOT OF FUN! HERB AND I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN YOU!



AND LATER THAT EVENING...

GOOD OLD JOHNNY! IT WAS NICE SEEING HIM AGAIN!

YOU TWO CERTAINLY SEEMED TO HAVE A LOT TO SAY TO EACH OTHER!



DON'T FORGET JOHNNY'S AN OLD FRIEND, DARLING! HMMM--SO HE'S STILL SEEING LILA! SHE ALWAYS HAD HER CAP SET FOR HIM!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING WE ALL WENT OUT TOGETHER, AND IT WAS FUNNY HOW JOHNNY AND I SEEMED TO BE DOING ALL THE DANCING!

METHINKS LILA IS GIVING ME A LOOK TRIMMED WITH DAGGERS! YOU BETTER ASK HER FOR THE NEXT DANCE!

I GUESS I'D BETTER BEFORE YOUR BOY FRIEND SHOOTS ME!



NO--I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING! I'D LIKE TO GO NOW, JOHNNY--IF YOU DON'T MIND!

I THINK WE OUGHT TO SHOVE OFF, TOO, JANICE! WE HAVE A LOT TO DO TOMORROW!



THE EVENING HAD BEEN A LOT OF FUN AND ON THE WAY HOME JOHNNY AND I BEGAN TO RECALL THE OLD SCHOOL SONGS!

REMEMBER THIS ONE--WE SANG IT AFTER WE WON THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP! OH--THERE'S NO SCHOOL LIKE OUR SCHOOL...

THAT'S IT, JAN--! I HAD FORGOTTEN THE WORDS! OH--THERE'S NO SCHOOL LIKE OUR SCHOOL...

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE DRIVING, JOHNNY!



SWEETHEARTS

HERB WAS PLENTY MIFFED WHEN WE GOT HOME AND I REALIZED THAT I WOULD HAVE TO PLAGUE HIM!

TALK ABOUT BEING A FIFTH WHEEL! THAT WAS *ME* ALL NIGHT! YOU HARDLY NOTICED ME! IT WAS ALL JOHNNY-- JOHNNY--!

DON'T BE A KILL-JOY, DARLING! I GUESS I JUST WANTED TO RECAPTURE THE OLD DAYS WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG AND SILLY!



HOW ABOUT FORGETTING THIS "AULD LANG SYNE" BUSINESS AND START MAKING PLANS FOR OUR WEDDING!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR! I'LL START SHOPPING TOMORROW!



THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE WEDDING AND SO I STARTED ON A SHOPPING SPREE THE FOLLOWING DAY! BUT SUDDENLY...

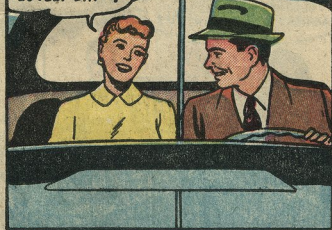
JOHNNY--- FANCY MEETING YOU...AS THEY SAY IN THE BOOKS!

I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THAT STRUT OF YOURS! HOP IN!



I HAVE SO MUCH SHOPPING TO TAKE CARE OF, AND I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN! BUT IT'S SUCH A LOVELY DAY--!

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING! HOW ABOUT A SPIN?



THAT WAS JOHNNY--IMPETUOUS AND CAREFREE! IT WAS HARD NOT TO BE INFECTED BY IT, SO A SHORT TIME LATER FOUND US OUT IN THE COUNTRY...

AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU OUT HERE, MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME WITH A PROBLEM!

GOOD--LET ME HEAR IT! IT'LL BE JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!



LILA'S FATHER WANTS ME TO COME INTO HIS FIRM--AND HE'S OFFERING ME A GOOD DEAL, TOO!

LILA'S FATHER--THAT OLD FAKER! YOU'RE NOT EVEN THINKING OF IT, ARE YOU?



IT MIGHT MEAN A PARTNERSHIP IN A REAL ESTATE FIRM INSTEAD OF JUST BEING A SALESMAN!

HE'S JUST TRYING TO BRIBE YOU TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER! CAN'T YOU SEE?



SWEETHEARTS

HE LAUGHED AT MY INDIGNATION AND I FELT MIFFED AT HIS REACTION!

MAYBE SO--BUT A GUY HAS TO MARRY SOMETIME! LILA IS A SWEET KID!

THAT'S NO REASON TO MARRY HER! YOU SHOULD MARRY A GIRL YOU LOVE!



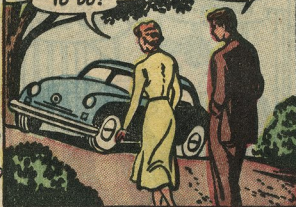
I'M AFRAID THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION NOW!



THE WAY HE HAD LOOKED AT ME-- AS IF HE HAD MOMENTARILY DROPPED HIS GUARD AND GIVEN ME AN INSIGHT INTO HIS HEART!

Y-YOU BETTER DRIVE ME BACK TO TOWN OR I'LL NEVER GET THROUGH WITH WHAT I HAVE TO DO!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT!



BUT THOUGHTS OF LILA ROPING IN A NICE GUY LIKE JOHNNY ONLY SEEMED TO HEIGHTEN MY ANNOYANCE! AND I FOUND MYSELF GOING THROUGH THE FAMILIAR SPLIT IN THE HEDGES TO REASON WITH HIM IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS!

HI, PEANUT! I SEE YOU STILL REMEMBER THE SHORT CUT BACK HERE!

NEVER MIND BEING SO FLIPPANT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



LOOK, YOU BIG GOON! YOU'RE LIKE A BIG BROTHER TO ME--AND I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU LIKE ONE! IF YOU ACCEPT THAT OFFER OF LILA'S FATHER, DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE PRACTICALLY TELLING HIM YOU'LL MARRY HIS DAUGHTER?

I GUESS SO! BUT I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT! WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?

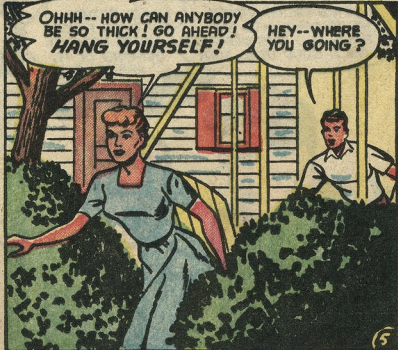


YOU BIG DOPE! I OUGHT TO--!



OHHH--HOW CAN ANYBODY BE SO THICK! GO AHEAD! HANG YOURSELF!

HEY--WHERE YOU GOING?



SWEETHEARTS

I PRACTICALLY RAN INTO HERB AS I STORMED INTO THE HOUSE! SOMEHOW, I HAD THE VAGUE FEELING JOHNNY WAS TEASING ME, BUT I WAS BLINDED BY THE CHEAP TACTICS OF LILA AND HER FATHER! I WAS ABOUT TO BLOW UP FROM EXASPERATION, AND HERB HAPPENED TO GET IN THE WAY!



I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, HONEY! DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE NEXT DOOR AGAIN!

I WISH YOU'D STOP SPYING ON ME!



I WASN'T AWARE THAT I WAS!

OH, HERB, I'M SORRY—I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT! KISS ME! IT'S MY FOUL TEMPER AGAIN!

I GENTLY BRUSHED MY LIPS WITH A TENDER KISS, BUT I HARDLY SEEMED AWARE OF IT AS ANGER CONTINUED TO CHURN INSIDE OF ME!



I'VE MET BLIND FOOLS BEFORE—BUT JOHNNY TAKES THE CAKE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW?

LILA AND HER FATHER HAD THE GALL TO OFFER JOHNNY A PARTNERSHIP! AND EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS WHY THEY'RE DOING IT, HE'S THINKING OF TAKING IT! DON'T YOU SEE—IT'S TO TRAP HIM INTO MARRIAGE!

SO WHAT? LILA IS A PRETTY ATTRACTIVE GIRL!



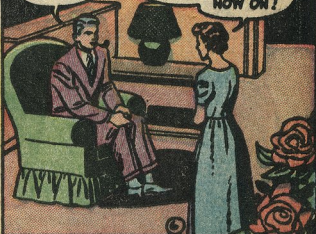
HMMMPH--ATTRACTIVE!? MAYBE ON THE SURFACE--BUT I KNOW THAT GIRL FOR WHAT SHE'S REALLY LIKE! AND SHE'S NOT JOHNNY'S TYPE!

AREN'T YOU GETTING A LITTLE TOO HET UP ABOUT THIS? AFTER ALL, HE'S OVER TWENTY-ONE AND ONLY A FRIEND!

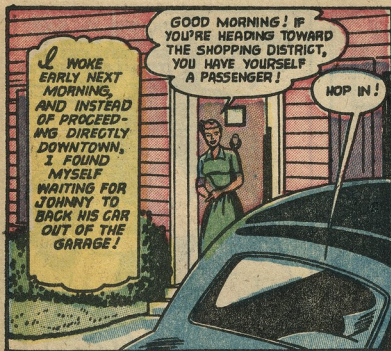


MAYBE HE RESENTS YOU STICKING YOUR NOSE INTO HIS AFFAIRS! HOW ABOUT CONCENTRATING ON OURS?

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I FELT THAT AFTER KNOWING HIM SO LONG--AND HE DID ASK MY ADVICE! OKAY--IT'S HIS AFFAIR FROM NOW ON!



SWEETHEARTS

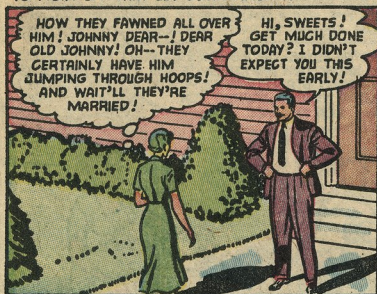


JOHNNY WAS UNUSUALLY QUIET AND SOMEHOW I FOUND IT HARD TO MAKE CONVERSATION! HE SEEMED WITHDRAWN! BUT WHEN WE STOPPED FOR A SODA...



SWEETHEARTS

WHAT A DISGUSTING EXHIBITION THOSE TWO PUT UP!
SO POSSESSIVE! HOURS LATER I WAS STILL TRYING
TO FIGHT OFF THAT LET DOWN FEELING!

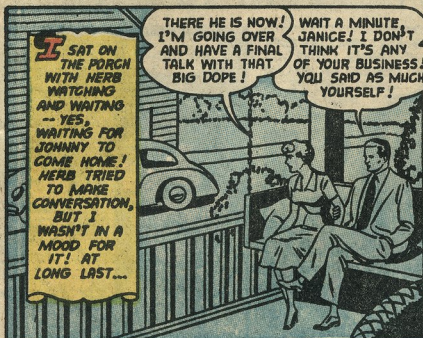
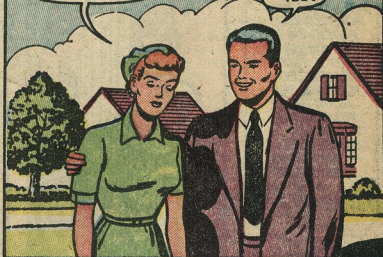


HOW THEY FAWNED ALL OVER HIM! JOHNNY DEAR--! DEAR OLD JOHNNY! OH--THEY CERTAINLY HAVE HIM JUMPING THROUGH HOOPS! AND WAIT'LL THEY'RE MARRIED!

HI, SWEETS! GET MUCH DONE TODAY? I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU THIS EARLY!

I SAW THE GATERER AND I DID A FEW OTHER THINGS! BUT I'M TIRED! DO YOU MIND IF WE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT NOW!

OF COURSE! COME ON IN AND KICK YOUR SHOES OFF! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DIDN'T LET ME COME WITH YOU!



I SAT ON THE PORCH WITH HERB WATCHING AND WAITING -- YES, WAITING FOR JOHNNY TO COME HOME! HERB TRIED TO MAKE CONVERSATION, BUT I WASN'T IN A MOOD FOR IT! AT LONG LAST...

THERE HE IS NOW! I'M GOING OVER AND HAVE A FINAL TALK WITH THAT BIG DOPE!

WAIT A MINUTE, JANICE! I DON'T THINK IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS! YOU SAID AS MUCH YOURSELF!

SOMEHOW I KEEP GETTING THE IDEA THAT IT'S MORE THAN OLD FRIEND STUFF--THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HIM!

IN LOVE WITH JOHNNY? HOW RIDICULOUS! WHY--HE'S JUST AN OLD FRIEND!



WELL--THIS IS THE TIME TO PROVE IT! I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO OVER THERE! IF YOU DO--I WON'T BE HERE WHEN YOU COME BACK!

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN ADOLESCENT! SUPPOSE YOU COME OVER WITH ME! WILL THAT CONVINCE YOU?

NO--WHAT I SAID GOES! I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO--AND IF YOU INSIST--!

ALL RIGHT, BE STUFFY ABOUT IT--BUT I'M GOING!

OF ALL THE CRAZY IDEAS HERB EVER HAD! LET HIM GO--IF THAT'S HOW STUBBORN HE'S GOING TO BE! AS IF I WAS IN LOVE WITH JOHNNY--! RIDIG!



SWEETHEARTS

BUT JOHNNY WASN'T IN HIS ACCUSTOMED PLACE ON THE SWING AND I FELT COMPELLED TO RING THE DOOR BELL! SOMETHING WAS COMPELLING ME—SOMETHING STRONGER THAN MYSELF!



HER DIDN'T AGT TOO SURPRISED TO SEE ME AND WE TALKED QUIETLY FOR A WHILE! THEN HIS VOICE BEGAN TO TRAIL OFF INTO A SORT OF QUIET RESIGNATION AND SOMETHING SEEMED TO TOUCH MY HEART!

THEY'RE BUYING THE BIG AMES HOUSE-- YOU KNOW THAT PRETTY WHITE ONE ON LOGUST STREET! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A WEDDING PRESENT FOR LILA AND ME!

DON'T-- DON'T LET THEM BRIBE YOU, JOHNNY! DON'T... SOB..!



AND SUDDENLY IT ALL WAS SO CLEAR! WHY COULDN'T I SEE IT BEFORE? OR DID IT TAKE THE THREAT OF LILA TO OPEN MY EYES?

OF COURSE I DO, YOU BIG STIFF! I GUESS I ALWAYS DID! I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL!

OH, JANICE BABY-- THAT'S HOW I ALWAYS FELT ABOUT YOU! I NEVER GOT OVER IT-- AND I KEPT HOPING!



NOW HURRY UP AND KISS ME--! WE HAVE A LOT OF PLANS TO MAKE FOR OUR WEDDING!

AND WHAT A WONDERFUL WEDDING IT'S GOING TO BE!



MARILYN MONROE

"DREAM GIRL of the MONTH"

MARILYN MONROE, THE MOST EXCITING YOUNG BEAUTY TO COME ALONG ON THE CINEMA HORIZON IN A LONG TIME, IS A HOLLYWOOD BORN AND BRED YOUNGSTER WHO DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE TOWN TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE TALENT SCOUTS!



THAT'S FAST ACTION IN HOLLYWOOD, BUT THE STUDIO EXECS DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE ON A YOUNGSTER THEY KNOW IS A SURE BET FOR STARDOM!

ONCE NAMED AS THE "DOOMPH" GIRL OF EMERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, MARILYN NEVERTHELESS HAD NO SCREEN AMBITIONS! SHE WANTED INSTEAD TO BE A SECRETARY AND DID GO TO WORK FOR A WAR PLANT OWNED BY REGINALD DENNY AFTER HER GRADUATION FROM VAN NYSE HIGH SCHOOL!



WHILE WORKING IN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY, MARILYN WAS DISCOVERED BY ARMY PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS WHO ASKED HER TO DO SOME ARMY MOTION PICTURES! AS A RESULT OF THAT SHE WENT TO WORK AS A PHOTOGRAPHER'S MODEL AND WORKED FOR SOME OF THE BIGGEST AGENCIES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA! SHE ALSO APPEARED ON SOME OF THE FANCIEST MAGAZINE COVERS!



STUDIO TALENT SCOUTS WHISTLED AND SCURRIED FOR HER PHONE NUMBER, BUT TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX GOT THERE FIRST AND BROKE A LONG-STANDING RULE BY GIVING HER A TECHNICOLOR SCREEN TEST USING SOME LEFT-OVER FILM FROM A BETTY GRABLE MOVIE! MARILYN WAS SIGNED THE NEXT DAY TO A LONG-TERM CONTRACT!

MARILYN, WHO WRITES POETRY WHICH SHE WON'T SHOW TO ANYONE AND WHOSE HOBBY IS PHOTOGRAPHY, IS AN AVID MOVIE FAN HERSELF!



THE CURVAGEOUS MARILYN IS A BLUE-EYED BLONDE, AND SHE LOVES SWIMMING, HORSEBACK RIDING AND YACHTING!





ANGRY LOVER



"**B**US leaving soon," someone called out as Gil tried to speak into the telephone above the locker room din.

"I'm sorry, Carrie," he shouted, "but practice ended a little late tonight. I'll see you for that soda at about eight-thirty. What?" He turned around and yelled at the other members of the football team, "Hey, pipe down."

"Yeah, Carrie? I said I'll see you at Blake's for a soda at eight-thirty. Okay. Tell your mom that the coach will be a little late, too. So long."

He hung up and joined the noisy throng that was streaming out of the locker room and piling into the waiting bus. On all sides voices were speculating on the forthcoming game with Northend High, the big game of the year. For two weeks, Coach Dawson had been putting the team through intensive drills and now there were two days left before the crucial kickoff.

"How do you feel, Gil?" one of the team members yelled to him.

"A little stiff," he replied.

"Don't worry," the same voice jibed back, "the coach's daughter will fix you up." A big roar of laughter from every side greeted this wisecrack, but for Gil, the subject of the coach's daughter was no joking matter.

There were two things that were really important in his life—Carrie and football. He felt that they were of equal importance, because if not for Carrie he might not be playing football and if not for football he might never have known Carrie. It was at the very field from which the bus was now speeding them that he had met her five months before. He had recently transferred to the high school and was at the field to ask the coach for a tryout on the football team. But as it turned out, it wasn't football he was interested in that day but rather a slim blonde girl with the most devilish smile and twinkling blue eyes he had ever seen. It was Carrie Dawson, the coach's daughter.

They seemed to notice each other immediately and before either of them realized what had happened, they were deep in conversation, chatting like old friends.

"Are you always going to be a spectator at football?" she asked playfully.

"I don't know," he replied shyly. "I came

here today hoping the coach would give me a tryout."

And that was how he met Carrie and joined the football team. She almost knocked him over by revealing she was Coach Dawson's daughter and arranging for an immediate tryout.

"You need a lot of training and coaching," her father announced after the trial, "but I think we can find a spot for you on the second or third string." After that, Carrie, football and Gil were inseparable.

"First stop," the bus driver yelled out. Gil hopped off the bus with several other players. Jimmy, the water boy, accompanied him down the block toward his house.

"Think we'll win?" Jimmy asked as he tried to keep up with Gil's long stride.

"Don't ask me," Gil replied. "I'm not even on the first string. I'll be lucky if I get into the game at all."

"Hey, Gil," his pint-sized companion said, "is it true that you wouldn't be on the team if not for the coach's daughter?"

The words bit hard into Gil. He knew that Carrie had been an aid in getting him a trial with the team, but he also felt that he really deserved to be there and would have made it even without her help.

"Where did you hear that?" he asked angrily.

"Just heard the coach mention it to his assistant."

"Do you mean that?" Gil demanded seriously.

"Yeah," the waterboy said. "I heard him say that he put you on the team as a favor to his daughter."

Gil swallowed hard. "Thanks, kid," he said quietly. He turned into his house. Dinner was eaten with hardly a word from Gil. The waterboy's words left him in no mood for mealtime banter.

"So that's why I'm on the team," he kept saying to himself. The idea that people would say he made the team because of Carrie often occurred to Gil, but whenever he mentioned this to her she assured him that she had had absolutely nothing to do with it.

"She lied to me," Gil thought. "She used the football team for a man trap. And she knew that I'd rather die than make the team

just because I have some drag with her father."

Gil fingered the heavy silver bracelet that had their names engraved on it. A grim expression crossed his face. "And every guy on the team must know about it and must be laughing behind my back!"

There was an angry look on Gil's face as he walked to the soda fountain for his date with Carrie.

"Hi, honey," she greeted him.

"I want to talk to you, Carrie," he said quietly.

They sat down in a rear booth.

"Did you have anything to do with me making the team?" He asked.

"Of course I did have *something* to do with it. I told Dad . . ."

"That's enough," he interrupted. He dropped the silver bracelet on the table and walked out before she had a chance to utter another word.

The next day at school he was asked to report to the coach's office.

"Probably asked her father to get us together again." Gil was undecided as to what he should do about the team.

The coach invited him to sit down. "Gil," he began, "I'm your coach and don't intend to interfere in your love life. I just want to tell you that the team is in bad shape."

"What's wrong?" Gil asked, not quite sure how he felt about such information.

"Conroy sprained his back in the gym yesterday morning. That's why he wasn't at practice yesterday."

"What do you want me to do?" Gil asked.

"With Conroy out we don't have a decent starting backfield, unless you can take his position."

"Are you joking?" Gil asked. "You want me to take our top star's position?"

"That's right," the coach replied. "We need you and you'll start."

Gil almost said, "Even though I'm only on the team because of your daughter?" But he checked himself.

"Okay, coach," he said. "Thanks for the chance."

A swell of joy filled Gil as he returned home that night from a rough practice session. "It's my chance to show I belong," he said to himself. "If I come through, no one can say I'm on the team only because of Carrie!"

A vast throng screamed with excitement that Saturday as the two teams lined up for the kickoff. Gil's team was to receive. He eyed the ball as it sailed through the air toward his team. The waterboy's words raced through his mind. "Is it true that you're on the team

because of the coach's daughter?" And before he knew what he was doing, Gil was racing downfield with the ball tucked under his arm. He straight-armed one tackler, skirted around another, picked up some interference and darted across the goal for a touchdown. Cheers rang through the air. And they rang again and again for him that afternoon as he turned the game into a one man show. The score was forty-two to nothing when the final whistle blew, and there was no doubt about who was the hero of the day. Five of his team's six touchdowns were scored by Gil!

He trotted off the field with cheers ringing in his head.

"Hey, start!" a voice called out. Gil looked around, it was the coach and Carrie was standing at his side.

He walked over to them, feeling strange inside. "Hello, coach. Hello, Carrie," he said.

"Good game," the coach said. "Nothing like an angry football player."

Gil looked puzzled and Carrie suppressed a giggle. "What do you mean?" he demanded. "Who's angry?"

"Looks like you have five touchdowns worth of anger in you," the coach said with a friendly grin.

"What does he mean?" Gil said turning to Carrie.

"I'll let you in on it, honey," she said. "When Conroy hurt his back, dad was worried about his replacement. He thought he didn't have anyone at all. He thought of you, but felt you didn't have enough experience. Then I remembered that dad once said that no one can play football like a man who is angry about football and love at the same time. Anger and spirit, Dad said, can make up for football experience."

Gil was beginning to see the light. "Go on," he said.

"I got the idea of making you think you got on the team through me. We knew that if you heard that you'd play as hard and as well as you could to prove that you deserved to be on the squad."

"And you certainly do," the coach said.

CARRIE slipped something into his hand. It was the bracelet. "I was just going to ask for that back," Gil said with a smile.

"Okay, angry lover," the coach said. "Take a shower and we'll all enjoy a big night out on me."

But they didn't hear him. Gil and Carrie were too absorbed in a long embrace to hear anything.

THE END

LOVE CAN COME ONLY ONCE... A LOVE THAT IS RIGHT, AND STRONG, AND PURE! AND WHEN A GIRL LOVES A MAN AS I LOVED ED, SHE CAN'T GIVE HIM UP SO EASILY. BUT I NOT ONLY GAVE HIM UP, I FLED OUT OF HIS LIFE... FOR THE TERRIBLE SECRET THAT WAS MINE UNKNOWINGLY WOULD BRING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO BOTH OF US... THIS...

GHOST OF MY PAST



DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, ED! IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU, THEN THERE'S **NOTHING** WORTH LIVING FOR! UNCLE JEREMIAH WAS RIGHT! I **AM** CURSED! GOODBYE!

WAIT, CELIA! **STOP!** YOU'VE BEEN **TRICKED!**

I FIRST MET ED DERWARD WHEN HE WAS PAINTING JEREMIAH'S CASTLE ON THE SLOPE OF THE HILL. JEREMIAH PARKER, THE MOST HATED MAN IN KENT WAY, WAS MY UNCLE. HE, CONNORS, AND I WERE THE CASTLE'S SOLE OCCUPANTS AFTER MOTHER DIED. SO I WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO FIND SOMEONE INTERESTED IN THE OLD PLACE.

IT'S NOT ONLY INTERESTING ART-WISE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE A VERY PRETTY GIRL LIVES THERE!

THANKS! DO YOU ALWAYS GO AROUND COMPLIMENTING STRANGERS?



YOU'RE NOT A STRANGER TO ME! MY FOLKS HAVE TALKED ABOUT YOU AND THAT OGRE UNCLE OF YOURS FOR YEARS, WHY? THE WHOLE TOWN WOULD GIVE ITS EYE-TEETH TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE THREE OF YOU!

HA! HA! SO WOULD I! WELL... IF YOU'RE **REALLY** INTERESTED THEN I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE!



SWEETHEARTS

IT BEGAN EXACTLY LIKE THAT... AND SOON WE WERE A CONSTANT TWOSOME! BUT WHEN I TOLD MY UNCLE ABOUT MY LIKING ED, HE SEEMED TO RESENT ANYONE BOTHERING WITH ME. IT WAS A STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS IRRITATION THAT LEFT ME PUZZLED!

NO! NO! I WON'T HEAR OF IT! YOU'LL STOP SEEING HIM, UNDERSTAND? CONNORS... SEE TO IT! I'LL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE!

Y-YES SIR!

BUT CONNORS, THE CARETAKER, WAS OLD... AND A GIRL LIKE ME HAD NO TROUBLE TRICKING HIM. ED AND I WERE IN LOVE... AND NO ONE WAS GOING TO STOP US FROM SEEING EACH OTHER!

DARLING... DO YOU THINK YOU COULD MARRY A PENNILESS, BUT PROMISING YOUNG ARTIST LIKE ME?

DO YOU HAVE TO ASK? OF COURSE I COULD... AND I WILL... WHATEVER UNCLE JEREMIAH MAY SAY!

I LOVE YOU, CELIA... MORE THAN I COULD EVEN HOPE TO SHOW YOU!

AND I LOVE YOU TOO, ED. OH... THIS LOVE OF OURS IS RIGHT! I JUST KNOW IT!

BUT WHEN I TOLD MY UNCLE OF OUR ENGAGEMENT, HE ALMOST HIT ME! BUT I HELD FIRM... AND ONLY THEN DID HE FACE ME WITH A STRANGE, FAR-AWAY LOOK IN HIS EYE... AND CONFIDED IN ME... THE HORRIBLE SECRET OF MY LINE!

GET RID OF HIM. I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS, MY DEAR... BUT YOU'RE TWENTY... AND YOU ONLY HAVE ONE MORE YEAR TO LIVE! YOU'LL DIE AS YOUR MOTHER DID, AT TWENTY-ONE, FROM A RARE BLOOD DISEASE WHICH RUNS IN YOUR VEINS!

YOU'RE LYING! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

IT'S TRUE, MISS CELIA. COME... I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR MOTHER'S ROOM. IT'S NEVER BEEN OPENED SINCE SHE... PASSED AWAY! YOU'LL FIND ALL THE DOCTORS' REPORTS IN THERE!

NO! NOT THIS... IT CAN'T HAPPEN LIKE THIS! OH, ED... ED!



SWEETHEARTS

BUT THE EVIDENCE WAS INDISPUTABLE. UNCLE JEREMIAH EXPLAINED THAT WAS WHY HE HAD KEPT ME WITH HIM. THAT'S WHY HE HAD BEEN AGAINST ANY ROMANTIC AFFAIRS FROM THE START. I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO REJECT ED...

BUT... IT'S FANTASTIC, CELIA! WE'LL GO TO SPECIALISTS!

NO, ED... IT'S BEST THAT YOU FORGET ME! GOODBYE, DARLING! I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!



I RAN BACK TO THE CASTLE, CRYING, AND FLUNG MYSELF ON MY BED. HOURS DRAGGED BY... THEN, WHEN I COULDN'T STAND THE TORTURE ANY LONGER, I DECIDED THE BEST WAY WAS TO END MY LIFE! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY! MOMENTS LATER, AS I WALKED TOWARD THE CLIFFS...

NEVER TO MARRY ED... NEVER TO HAVE MY LIFE! NO.. NO...

WAIT, CELIA! STOP!



I WHIRLED AND FACED ED... HE LOOKED ANGRY. THEN I WAS LISTENING IN SHOCK AND BEWILDERMENT TO WHAT HE HAD TO TELL ME!

I MET CONNORS IN TOWN AND GOT THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM! YOUR UNCLE LIED! YOUR MOTHER NEVER DIED OF A RARE MALADY! YOU'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH!

BUT WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING?



WITH THE RAIN AND LIGHTNING FLASHING ALL ABOUT US, WE RAN TO THE CASTLE TO FACE MY UNCLE. BUT RUSHING TOWARDS US...

OH, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! THE MASTER HAS FALLEN DOWN THE STEPS! HE WAS RAVING AND RANTING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK NEARBY AND STARTLED HIM!

WHAT IS IT, CONNORS? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL US?



CONNORS LED US TO AN ALCOVE IN MY UNCLE'S STUDY, WHERE WE FOUND A DRAWER FILLED WITH PAPERS EXPLAINING EVERYTHING. POOR UNCLE JEREMIAH WAS DEAD! AND AS I READ EVERYTHING, IT ALL BECAME CLEAR!

MY MOTHER CAME BACK TO LIVE WITH JEREMIAH AFTER HER MARRIAGE WITH MY FATHER FAILED. JEREMIAH NEVER GOT OVER IT. HIS PRIDE WOULDN'T LET HIM ADMIT THAT ANYONE FROM OUR FAMILY HAD FAILED! SO HE MADE UP A FANTASTIC STORY, AND ACTUALLY GREW TO BELIEVE IT HIMSELF ALL THESE YEARS!



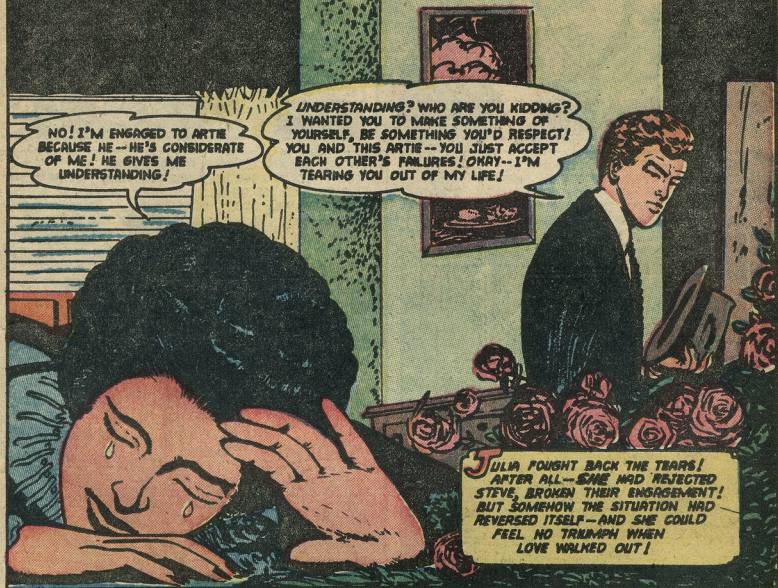
WELL... NOW WE CAN SETTLE DOWN AND LEAD A VERY NORMAL LIFE, MRS. DERWARD! I THINK YOUR UNCLE MAY HAVE LIKED TO SEE YOU HAPPY AFTER ALL!

I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE, DARLING. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, TONIGHT NEVER HAPPENED. THE GHOST IN MY PAST IS A VERY DEAD GHOST.. ESPECIALLY WHEN I HAVE YOU TO KISS!



AND I KNEW THEN THAT MY PROBLEMS WERE OVER... FOR WITH ED AT MY SIDE, THE ONLY SECRETS WE'D HAVE WERE THE ONES THAT CAME WITH LOVE!

A FLYING SAUCER ROMANCE



NO! I'M ENGAGED TO ARTIE BECAUSE HE--HE'S CONSIDERATE OF ME! HE GIVES ME UNDERSTANDING!

UNDERSTANDING? WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? I WANTED YOU TO MAKE SOMETHING OF YOURSELF, BE SOMETHING YOU'D RESPECT! YOU AND THIS ARTIE--YOU JUST ACCEPT EACH OTHER'S FAILURES! OHAY--I'M TEARING YOU OUT OF MY LIFE!

JULIA FOUGHT BACK THE TEARS! AFTER ALL--SHE HAD REJECTED STEVE, BROKEN THEIR ENGAGEMENT! BUT SOMEHOW THE SITUATION HAD REVERSED ITSELF--AND SHE COULD FEEL NO TRIUMPH WHEN LOVE WALKED OUT!

I WAS NEAR TEARS AS I WAITED IMPATIENTLY OUTSIDE OF THE NATIONAL SALES COMPANY, WHERE STEVE WAS EMPLOYED! MY CHEEKS NOT WITH HUMILIATION, I THOUGHT OF BEING FIRED FROM MY LATEST JOB!



IT'S BEEN THE SAME IN ONE JOB AFTER ANOTHER SINCE STEVE AND I CAME TO THE CITY FROM SAYTONVILLE, WHEN AUNT DIED AND LEFT ME ALONE! OH, WHY DOESN'T STEVE COME OUT? WHAT IS TAKING HIM SO LONG?

WE WERE GOING TO GET SET IN THE CITY, ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, AND MARRY! I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF THE IDEA...NEVER SURE OF MYSELF, DUBIOUS IN EVERYTHING I UNDERTOOK! I GUESS IT SHOWED TO THOSE WHO EMPLOYED ME!



BUT NOW--I'M FED UP! I WON'T GO ON THIS WAY ANYMORE!

JULIA, HONEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

SWEETHEARTS

I FLUNG MYSELF INTO HIS ARMS AND WEPT MY HEART OUT! HE COULD GUESS WHAT HAPPENED! HE TRIED TO CALM ME...BUT MY ANGUISH WAS NOW A NEAR-HYSTERIA!



COME ON NOW, JULIA--IT'S REALLY NOT SO TRAGIC! ONCE YOU LEARN TO STAND ON YOUR OWN FEET--YOU'LL FORGET THIS SORT OF THING EVER HAPPENED!

NO! LET'S GO BACK TO SAYTONVILLE, STEVE!

WAIT A MINUTE, DARLING--COME WITH ME! WE'LL GO BACK INTO THE PARKING LOT WHERE WE CAN TALK WITHOUT BEING THE OBJECT OF A SCENE! I WANT TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING!

...SOB... THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN!

RATES

.75
First
Hour
.35
each add.
hour



LISTEN, HON--WE CAN'T QUIT NOW, GO HOME LIKE A COUPLE OF BEATEN PUPS! AND WHAT FOR? MILLIONS OF PEOPLE GET ALONG HERE! YOU'VE JUST GOT TO LEARN YOUR OWN FAILINGS BY EXPERIENCE AND...

NO! I HATE THE CITY! I HATE IT AND I WON'T STAY!



IF YOU REFUSE ME NOW, IT MEANS YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE ME! WILL YOU TAKE ME BACK TO SAYTONVILLE, STEVE? STEVE--WILL YOU? ANSWER ME!

IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE--IF I DID! JULIA, CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?



ALL RIGHT! HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME IS ALL CLEAR ENOUGH NOW!

JULIA--DON'T GO LIKE THAT!



I WHIRLED ON MY HEEL AND RAN OUT OF SIGHT! ALL THE WAY BACK TO MY LITTLE FURNISHED APARTMENT--THE TEARS CAME, BITTER AND SELF-PITYING!

...SOB...EVEN THE THOUGHT OF GOING BACK TO SAYTONVILLE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME--ALONE! WITH AUNT FELICIA GONE--I HAVE NO ONE THERE...



SWEETHEARTS

THE
GRAY,
MELANCHOLY
DAYS
OF LATE
AUTUMN
PASSED
AND I
HARDLY
VENTURED
OUT OF
MY ROOM!
I KEPT
WAITING,
WATCHING,
HOPING
FOR THE
SIGHT
OF THE
FAMILIAR
FIGURE
DOWN MY
STREET,
BUT...

STEVE HADN'T COME YET!
PERHAPS HE THINKS I
WENT BACK HOME!

MY PITIFUL FEW DOLLARS
WON'T LAST VERY LONG!
BUT WORSE THAN THAT IS
THE LONELINESS! I DON'T
KNOW A SOUL BESIDE
STEVE! I---OH, THE
DOOR BUZZER!

RING! RING!

HELLO, I'M MRS. BLER! I'M
LOOKING FOR SOME NEW VOLUNTEER
AIR SPOTTERS FOR THE NEIGHBOR-
HOOD CIVIL DEFENSE! PERHAPS
YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE SOME
OF YOUR TIME IN THIS WAY!

WHY, YES--YES, I
WOULD BE GLAD TO!
TELL ME HOW IT WORKS
AND WHAT I'M TO DO!

52 WAS GLAD TO ACCEPT! IT GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DO! AND IT WAS THE UNUSUAL
EVENT DURING THE COURSE OF ONE EVENING'S SPOTTING, THAT I MET ARTIE! I WAS
STATIONED ON AN APARTMENT HOUSE ROOF WHEN I HEARD SOMEONE CALL!

LOOK!
LOOK
UP THERE!

IT'S A FLYING SAUCER!
THERE-- THERE IT GOES!
DO YOU SEE IT?

I--I'M NOT
SURE! WAIT--
I THINK I DO
SEE SOMETHING
MOVING!

P EOPLE
GATHERED
ABOUT US
SHORTLY
AFTER,
AROUSSED
BY THE
NOISE!
THEY
WERE
WIDE-
EYED,
QUESTION-
ING! THE
EXCITE-
MENT WAS
REALLY
THRILLING!

HOW FAST WAS IT
MOVING? AS FAST
AS SOME OF THE
NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS
DESCRIBED?

I CALLED THE NEWS-
PAPERS ABOUT THIS! THEY
OUGHT TO BE HERE ANY
MINUTE! IMAGINE THIS
HAPPENING--RIGHT IN
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

SWEETHEARTS

PRESENTLY
THE
REPORTERS
CAME
ALONG—
AND I
AND THE
TALL,
SLENDER
YOUNG
MAN
WERE IN
THE LINE-
LIGHT!



BOTH WHEELER AND I WERE BOTH OBVIOUSLY LONELY AND ANXIOUS FOR EACH OTHER'S COMPANY! SOMETIME LATER, WE WALKED DOWN TOWARD THE WATERFRONT! THE CONVERSATION BECAME SOMEWHAT PERSONAL ...



I GUESS WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER PRETTY WELL... AND WE CONTINUED TALKING ABOUT OUR BAD LUCK, FINDING SOME COMFORT IN MUTUAL CONDOLENCES! HOURS AFTER, BEFORE MY PLACE, HE KISSED ME GENTLY GOOD NIGHT! I ACCEPTED HIS KISS WITH A MURDER FOR AFFECTION!



SWEETHEARTS

AFTER THAT, I DATED ARTIE CONSTANTLY! WE FOUND SOLACE IN EACH OTHER'S COMPANY! ADMITTEDLY, WE WERE BOTH AT ODDS WITH THE WORLD! OUR ROMANCING BECAME MORE SERIOUS! AND ONE EVENING, AFTER I DRESSED FOR A DATE...



THE SIGHT OF HIM AROUSED A CONFUSION OF FEELINGS IN ME! I WAS SEIZED BY TWO OPPOSITE IMPULSES-- TO THROW MY ARMS AROUND HIM, AND TO RUN AWAY AND HIDE! INSIDE, HE CAME CLOSE, SQUEEZED MY HAND...



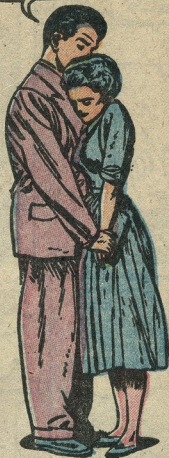
I FELT SO INSECURE--SO INFERIOR IN STEVE'S PRESENCE! HE MADE ME ACUTELY AWARE OF MY OWN SHORTCOMINGS! TO CONCEAL MY FEELINGS, I RE-TRIMATED BELLIGERENTLY!



SWEETHEARTS



IF HE WAS ANYONE IMPORTANT TO YOU-- I'M GLAD HE'S OUT OF YOUR LIFE! I TAKE IT THAT I MEAN MORE TO YOU THAN ANYONE! IT'S THE WAY I HOPED IT WOULD BE!



IT WAS WITH A VENGEANCE AGAINST STEVE THAT I SURRENDERED TO ARTIE'S FUMBLING KISS, HIS AWKWARD EMBRACE!



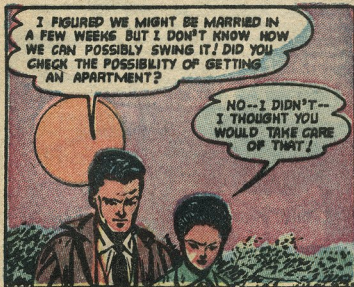
SWEETHEARTS

IF EVER I EXPECTED TO RECREATE SOME OF THE BETTER THINGS IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH STEVE IN MY ROMANCE WITH ARTIE--I WAS DUE FOR A RUDE JOLT! AFTER SOME WEEKS, WE NEVER MET WITHOUT AN AIR OF BROODING SILENCE... OF WEARISOME BOREDOM, AS THOUGH WE WERE STILL SEPARATE AND ALONE!



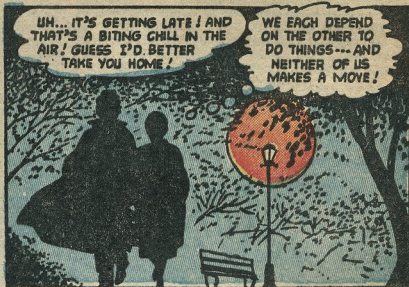
WHAT SHOULD I DO, JULIA--TAKE ANOTHER CHANCE IN A SMALL BUSINESS OR TRY A JOB AGAIN?

I-I DON'T KNOW, ARTIE! I WANTED YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW I MIGHT MANAGE FOR MYSELF NOW!



I FIGURED WE MIGHT BE MARRIED IN A FEW WEEKS BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN POSSIBLY SWING IT! DID YOU CHECK THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING AN APARTMENT?

NO--I DIDN'T--I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TAKE CARE OF THAT!



UH...IT'S GETTING LATE! AND THAT'S A BITING CHILL IN THE AIR! GUESS I'D BETTER TAKE YOU HOME!

WE EACH DEPEND ON THE OTHER TO DO THINGS...AND NEITHER OF US MAKES A MOVE!



WE'RE TWO OF A KIND--YES! TWO PARASITES!

'NIGHT, JULIA! IF YOU GET ANY IDEAS AS TO HOW WE CAN ARRANGE THINGS--CALL ME!



...SOB...STEVE WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG ABOUT ME AND ARTIE! BUT WHAT CAN I DO NOW? WE'VE GONE SO FAR IN OUR RELATIONSHIP!

MY LONELINESS WAS GREATER THAN EVER--AND NOW IT WAS COMPOUNDED BY A SITUATION WITH ARTIE THAT I DID NOT KNOW HOW TO CONTROL! AS CUSTOMARY WITH ME, I TRIED TO AVOID IT ENTIRELY, FINDING EXCUSES NOT TO SEE ARTIE FOR SEVERAL DAYS...



I-I'M SORRY, ARTIE, I CAN'T SEE YOU AGAIN--I HAVE A DREADFUL COLD! MAYBE SUNDAY...

UH...I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF ON SUNDAY, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL PUT IT OFF UNTIL NEXT WEEK!

SWEETHEARTS

SOMEHOW ARTIE DIDN'T COMPLAIN! IT WAS ONLY WHEN HE CALLED UPON ME IN THE COMPANY OF AN ATTRACTIVE, ASSERTIVE, BLONDE YOUNG WOMAN THAT I UNDERSTOOD WHY! IRONIC! AFTER I WRACKED MY BRAIN, TORTURED MYSELF IN SEEKING A WAY OUT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP!



JULIA, THIS IS DORA MAYS!

HELLO, JULIA! ARTIE HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, AND I CONVINCED HIM IT WASN'T WISE TO GO ON POSTPONING IT!



YES... YOU SEE, JULIA, I MET DORA A FEW WEEKS AGO AND... WELL, EVER SINCE WE'VE HIT IT OFF!

TO COME TO THE POINT, ARTIE AND I HAVE DECIDED UPON MARRIAGE!

ARTIE STAMMERED PITFULLY... BUT THERE WAS NOTHING INDECISIVE ABOUT MISS MAYS'S WORDS! SHE MISTOOK MY ASTONISHMENT FOR HEARTBREAK...



DON'T TAKE IT TOO BADLY! ACTUALLY, I CAN DO THINGS WITH ARTIE! HE NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE ME TO ARRANGE THINGS! I HOPE YOU SEE THAT AND WILL ACKNOWLEDGE IT!



THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I CAN SAY... EXCEPT, HERE IS YOUR RING, ARTIE!

I-I'M SORRY IT HAD TO WORK OUT THIS WAY! IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS, I GUESS!



I--I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR HAPPINESS, JULIA! I KNOW YOU NEED IT AS MUCH AS I DO! GOODBYE...



HE'S GOTTEN SOMEONE TO LEARN ON! HE REALIZED, TOO, THAT WE DIDN'T BELONG TOGETHER--TWO WEAKLINGS! LIKE THE INCIDENT WITH THE FLYING SAUAGER--OUR ROMANCE WAS AS MUCH A DELUSION!

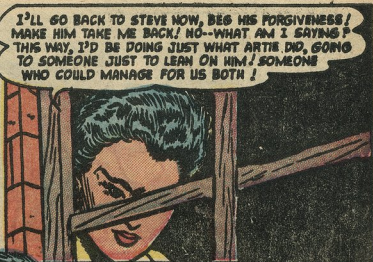
SWEETHEARTS

THE TENSION
OF THE PAST WEEKS WAS OVER WITH-- AND THE TEARS I HAD DENIED MYSELF SINCE MY BREAK WITH STEVE COULD NO LONGER BE RESTRAINED!

STEVE... SOB... I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL! I CAN NEVER LOVE ANYONE BUT YOU--AND I NEED YOU SO! MORE THAN EVER NOW!



I'LL GO BACK TO STEVE NOW, BEG HIS FORGIVENESS! MAKE HIM TAKE ME BACK! NO--WHAT AM I SAYING! THIS WAY, I'D BE DOING JUST WHAT ARTIE DID, GOING TO SOMEONE JUST TO LEAN ON HIM! SOMEONE WHO COULD MANAGE FOR US BOTH!



NO! BEFORE I GO TO STEVE, I'LL ESTABLISH MYSELF--BE A WOMAN WHO CAN STAND ON HER OWN! WORTHY OF HIS LOVE!



THAT'S THE MOMENT I WILL LIVE FOR! I'LL MAKE IT A REALITY!

JULIA, MY DARLING! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU! YOU'VE BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON I HOPED YOU WOULD BE WHEN WE LEFT FOR THE CITY!



IT WASN'T EASY-- BUT I FOUGHT FOR IT! I WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE A GO OF THINGS! AND THEN, SOMEHOW--I WAS MANAGING ON MY OWN! I HAD A JOB AT KEELER'S DEPARTMENT STORE AND I KEPT IT! I GOT A NICE APARTMENT---AND STUNNING CLOTHES!

BOY, YOU SURE GOT NICE TASTE, LADY! FIXING UP A NEAT LITTLE PLACE HERE!

THE CLOTHES I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF HAVING! AND I'VE EARNED 'EM ALL MYSELF!



YOU ARE A MOST COURTEOUS AND EFFECTIVE SALESGIRL, MISS!

SWEETHEARTS

SINCE I WAS LIVING THE TRANSFORMATION, I WASN'T AWARE OF HOW GREAT A CHANGE HAD BEEN WROUGHT IN ME! IT WAS THE OTHERS WHO MADE ME AWARE OF THE DIFFERENCE; THEIR FRIENDSHIP, THEIR INTEREST IN ME! SUDDENLY, THE CITY WAS A WONDERFUL PLACE!



THANKS A LOT FOR THE LIFT! IT BEATS THE BUS ANY DAY! SEE YOU AT WORK TOMORROW!

SEE YOU TONIGHT IF YOU'D LET US! SO LONG, BEAUTIFUL-- AND LOOK OUT FOR MY DREAMS, I'M WARNING YOU! THEY'RE DANGEROUS!

HOW MUCH JOY LIVING CAN PROVIDE! WHY-WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT SOONER? STEVE TRIED TO TELL ME! HOW PATIENT HE WAS! HOW MUCH HE MUST HAVE LOVED ME! OH, STEVE-- WILL I EVER HAVE YOU LOVE ME AGAIN?

I WALKED INTO THE APARTMENT HOUSE LOBBY, MOURNING THE LOVE I'D ONCE KNOWN-- FONDLING THE IMAGE OF THE MAN I WOULD NEVER FORGET! THEN, SUDDENLY-- THE IMAGE BECAME REALITY!

STEVE!

I DECIDED TO LOOK YOU UP, JULIA-- JUST TO SEE HOW YOU WERE! I GUESS I CARED TOO MUCH TO LET YOU DRIFT!



TO BE HONEST, I FIGURED TO FIND YOU DOWN AND OUT! YOU NEVER KNEW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

I LOVE YOU, DARLING! I ALWAYS HAVE! BUT NOW... I LOVE YOU AS A WOMAN, NOT A FEARFUL, DESPONDENT CHILD!

HE HESITATED ONLY A MOMENT-- AND THEN HIS EYES, HIS LIPS GAVE ME THE RESPONSE I YEARNED FOR!

OH, STEVE, AND YOU STILL CAME AFTER ME! AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED!



The End

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MAKE EXTRA MONEY TOO! The moment folks see the beautiful styles, the vast selection, and the *low, money-saving prices*, they want you to send to famous Harford Frocks for dresses just like them. And for sending us their selections you get your own dresses *without paying a single penny*—and, in addition, you collect and keep a generous cash profit for every order you send. Don't wait! We'll send you everything you need **ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

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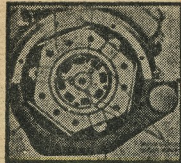
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Address

City State

Dress Size Age

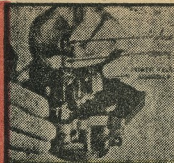
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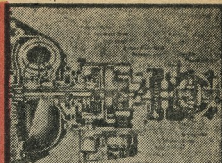
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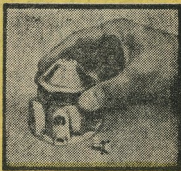
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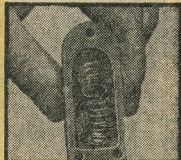
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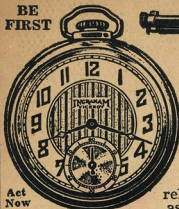
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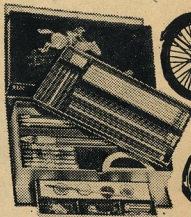
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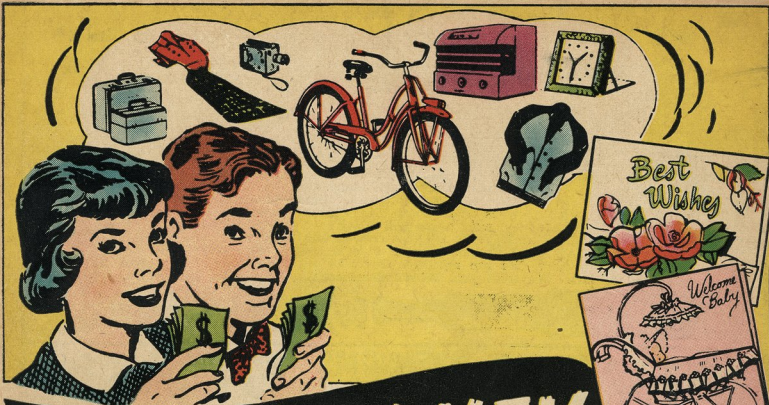
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